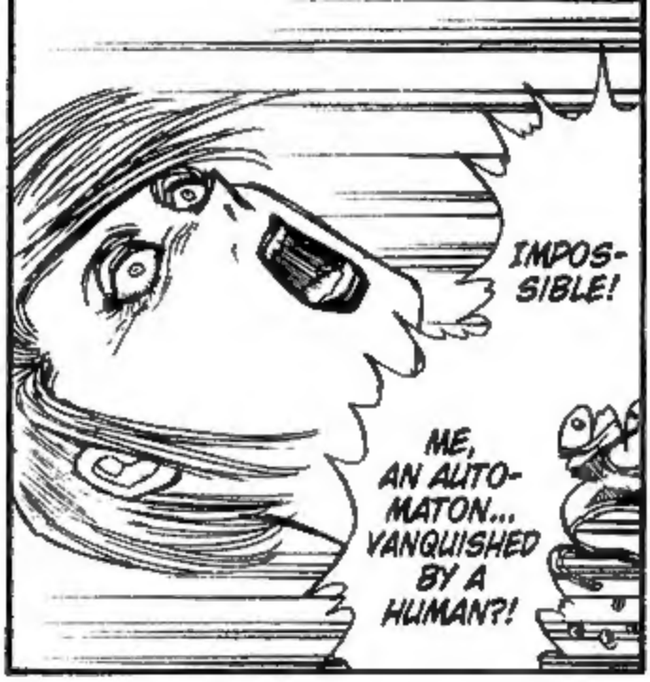
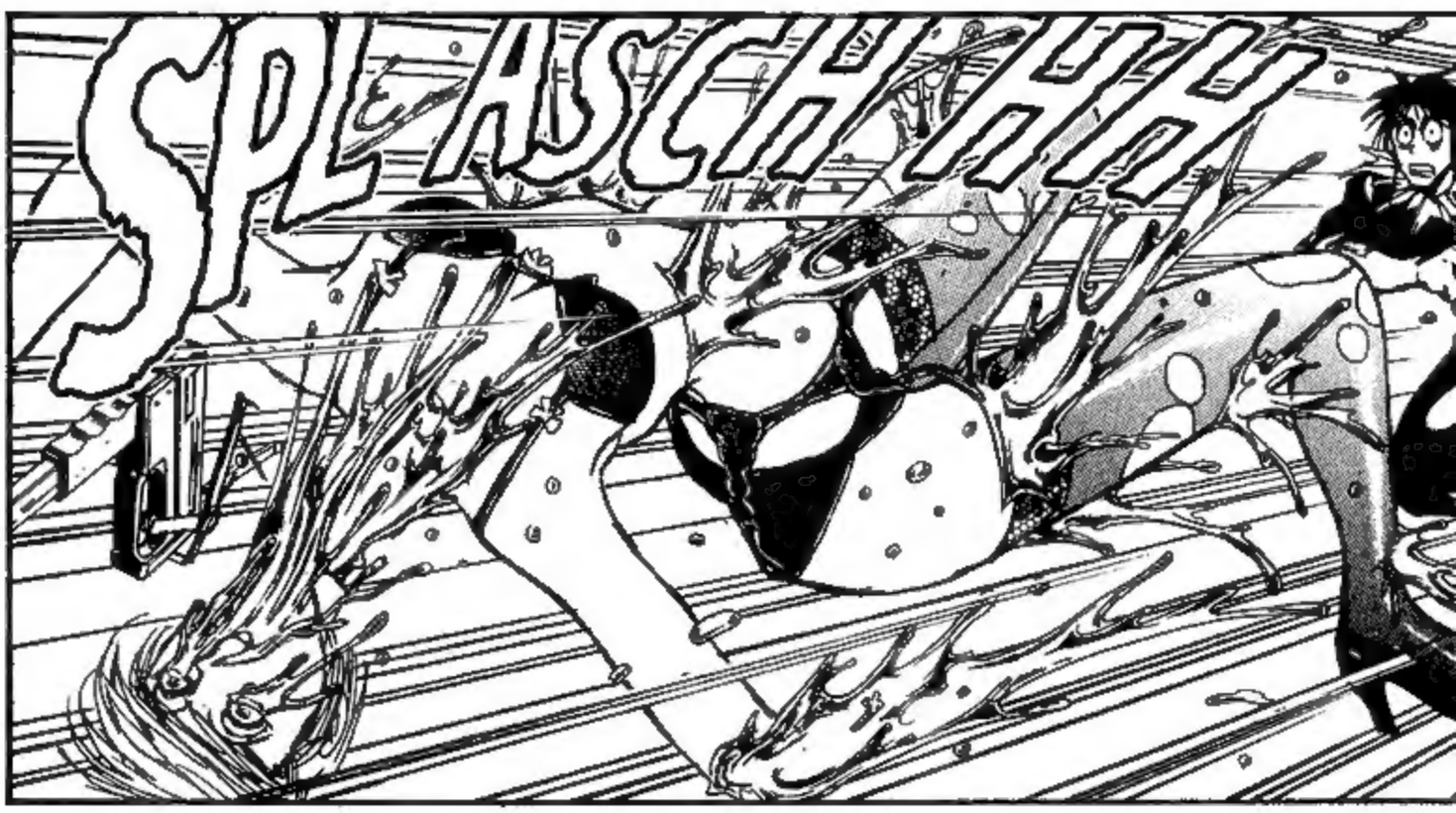
ZOOM
HISSS
ACT VII:
KARAKURI
* A MAN
"WE
MUST
LEAVE
PARIS"
SBOOM!

BLORP
GRAAAH !!!


IMPOS-SIBLE!
ME, AN AUTO-MATON... VANQUISHED BY A HUMAN?!


SPLEASCHHH

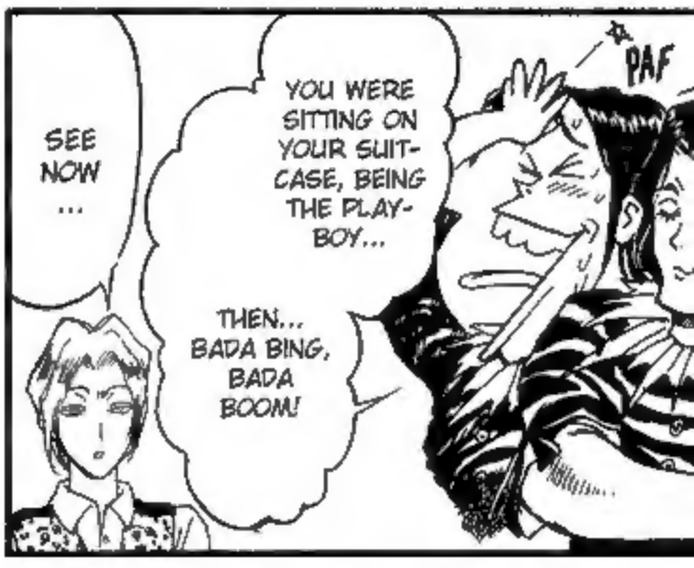
AND... ALSO...
AUTO-MATONS... WHO MOVE BY THEM-SELVES!
THIS IS CRAZY...
EHH
EHH
EHH
EHH

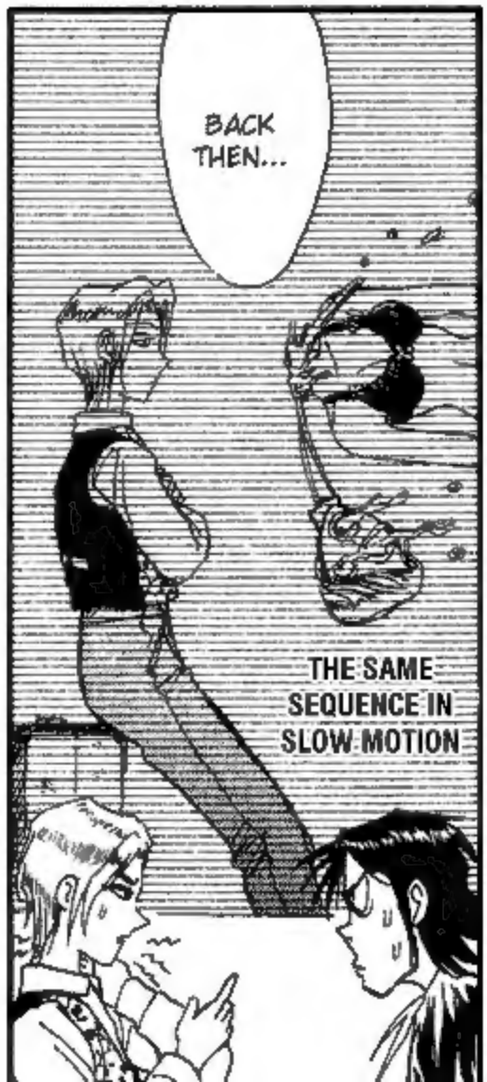
BRLOHH

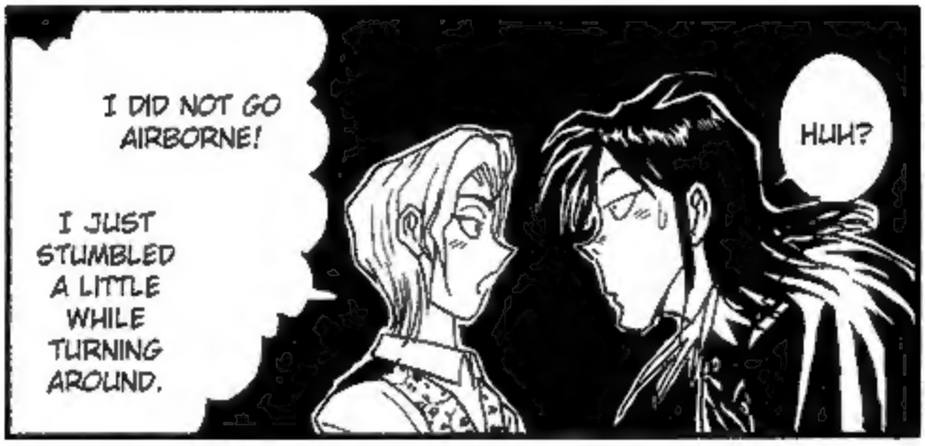
AAAH! WHAT'S THIS THING IN MY A-A-ARM?!
IT'S "ST. GEORGE'S BLADE."
IT WAS NAMED AFTER A LEGENDARY SAINT SAID TO HAVE VANQUISHED AN ENORMOUS DRAGON BY HIMSELF ...
THAT'S NOT WHAT I WAS ASKING ABOUT!!!
POF
YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE CAREFUL, NARUMI ...
HITTING THAT AUTOMATON WITH YOUR REAL ARM-- THAT WAS RECKLESS!
HE HE HE...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, NARUMI?
SO PATHETIC!
...THAT WAS SOME FALL WHEN YOU GOT THAT AUTOMATON IN YOUR FACE! ...WHAT A FLIGHT!
YOU CAN PRETEND ALL YOU WANT! BUT...
OUAHAHAHA

OH LA LAA!
ABSO-LUTELY NOT!
"YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE CAREFUL, NARUMI" ...
WHEREAS YOU, YOU WENT AIR-BORNE!


SEE NOW ...
YOU WERE SITTING ON YOUR SUIT-CASE, BEING THE PLAY-BOY...
THEN... BADA BING, BADA BOOM!
PAF


BACK THEN...
THE SAME SEQUENCE IN SLOW MOTION


I DID NOT GO AIRBORNE!
I JUST STUMBLED A LITTLE WHILE TURNING AROUND.
HUH?

NOW LISTEN HERE! GUY RECH DOES NOT FALL STUPIDLY OR DISGRACEFULLY! ... IS THAT UNDERSTOOD?!
ZOING
HE HE! BULL-SHIT!

POF!
SAH!
BATAN
BOW
BLOW
YOU GOT THE CRAP BEAT OUT OF YOU!!! SAY IT!
SNIF
I JUST TRIPPED.
...
BLOW
OH NO! THAT'S ENOUGH !!!
MOMMY ...
SNIF

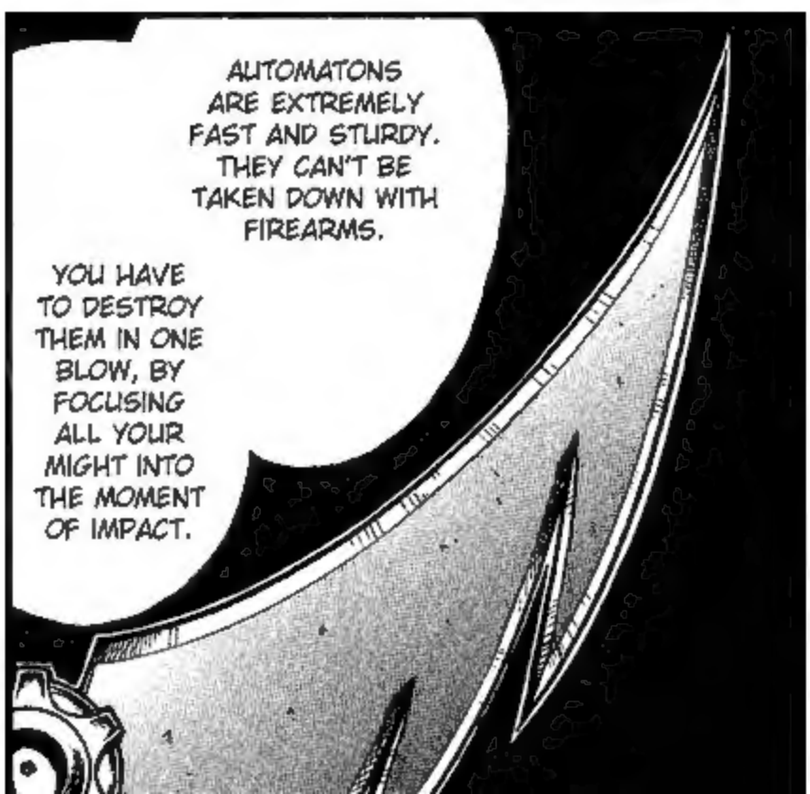
GOH GOH
UWAAAAH!
ZAANN
NARUMI, UNFOLD YOUR BLADE MANUALLY TO USE IT!
SHIT!
SHE'S STILL STANDING, THAT ONE?!
SCH

TA TA TA TA
BYE BYE, DOLLY!

BRIAAHHH

I HAVE TO ADMIT, YOU'RE ONE STRONG GUY!
PLAC CRAC
OH MAN...

BLAM

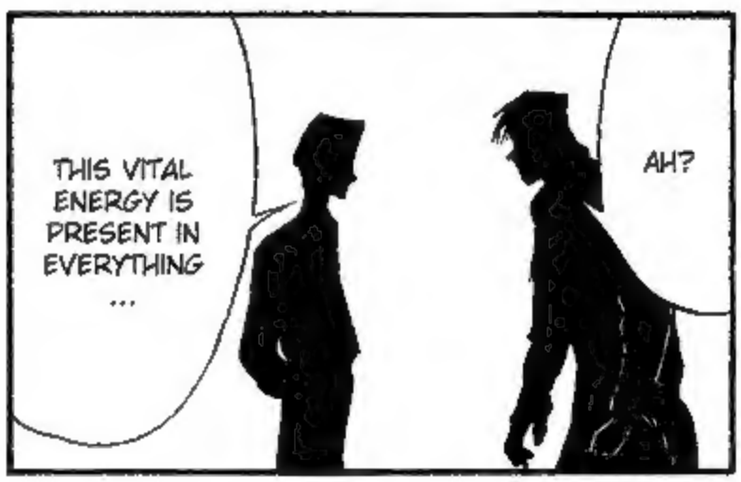

AUTOMATONS ARE EXTREMELY FAST AND STURDY. THEY CAN'T BE TAKEN DOWN WITH FIREARMS.
YOU HAVE TO DESTROY THEM IN ONE BLOW, BY FOCUSING ALL YOUR MIGHT INTO THE MOMENT OF IMPACT.

WELL ...
IT'S THIS THING, IT'S CRAZY!
...BUT ESPECIALLY GOOD FOR DESTROYING AUTOMATONS, RIGHT?

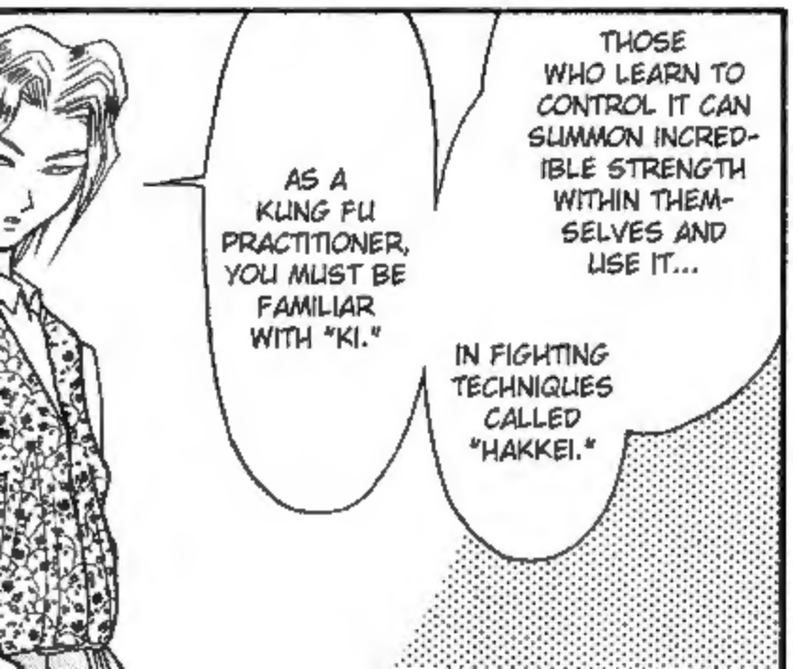
HM?
YES...
THAT'S THE REASON WHY I WANT YOU TO HELP ME DESTROY THEM.

HM...
BACK THEN, I HAD THE FEELING THAT I COULD BEAT THEM, EVEN WITH JUST MY NORMAL ARM.

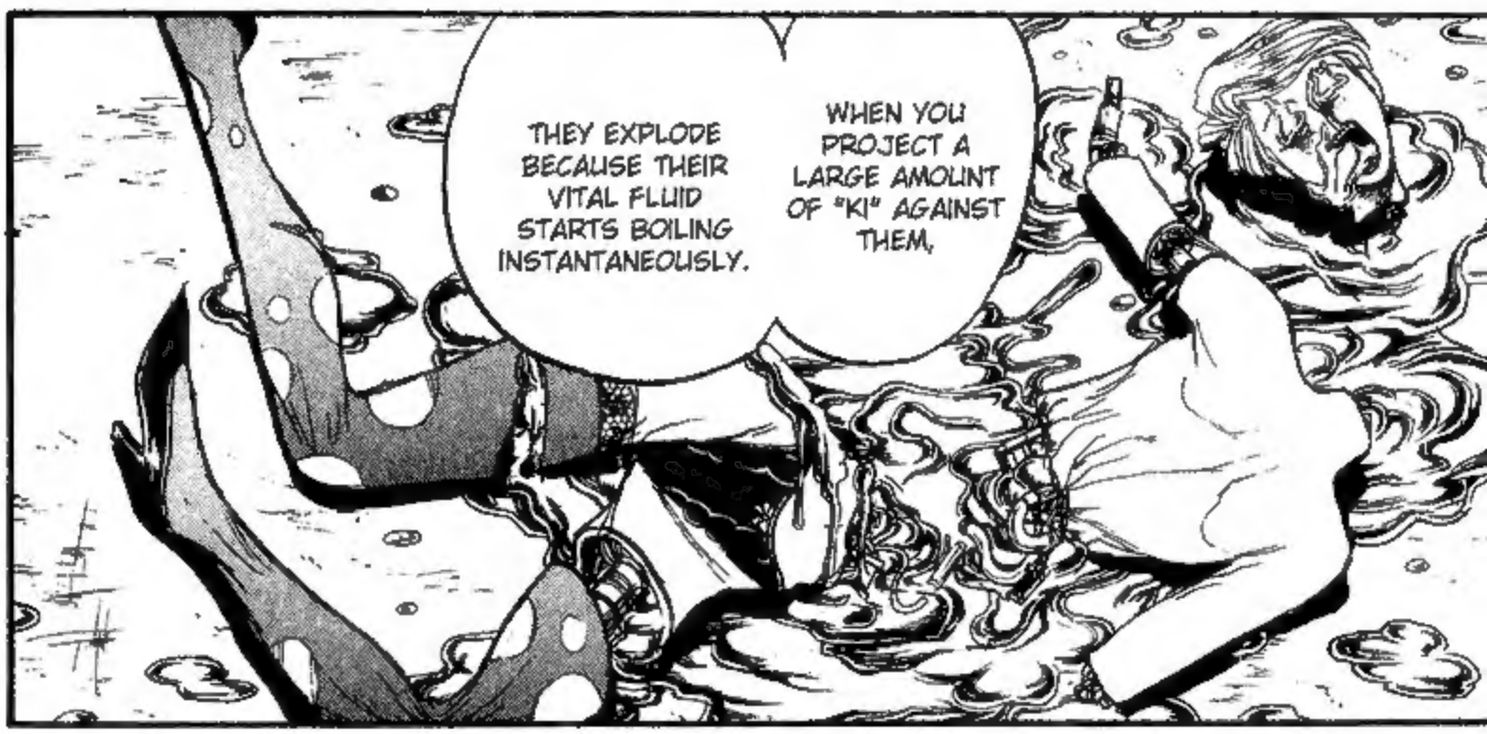
LISTEN, THERE ARE TWO WAYS TO PERMANENTLY STOP AN AUTOMATON:
THE FIRST IS...
...TO CUT THEM IN HALF IN ORDER TO OBLITERATE THEIR VITAL FUNCTIONS. THE SECOND ...

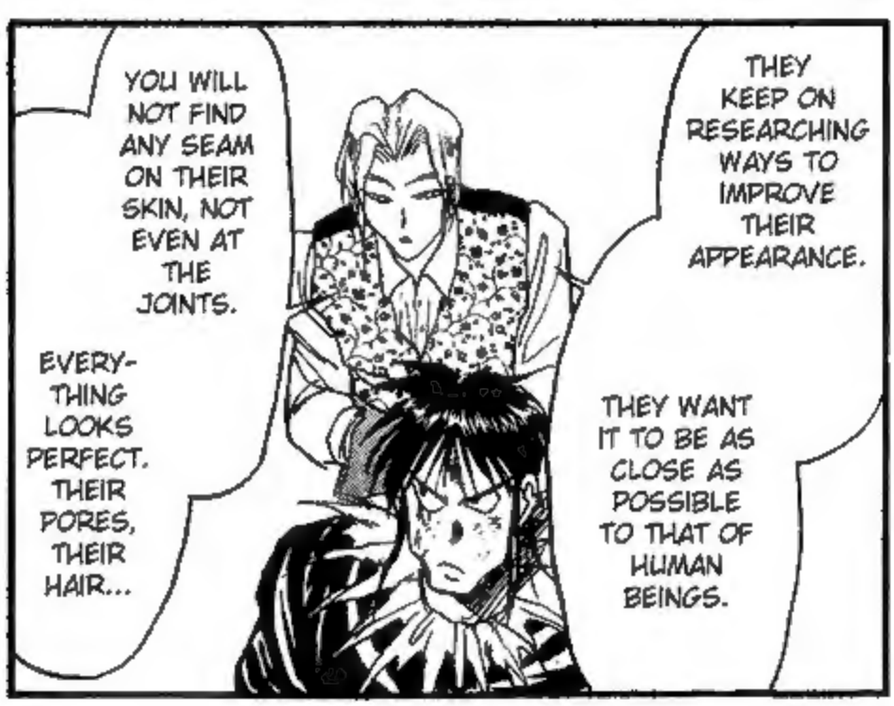

AH?
THIS VITAL ENERGY IS PRESENT IN EVERYTHING ...

...IS TO HIT THEM...
...IN ORDER TO BLOW UP THEIR INSIDES.
...WHILE FOCUSING YOUR VITAL ENERGY...
SPA
AH


THOSE WHO LEARN TO CONTROL IT CAN SUMMON INCREDIBLE STRENGTH WITHIN THEMSELVES AND USE IT...
AS A KUNG FU PRACTITIONER, YOU MUST BE FAMILIAR WITH "KI."
IN FIGHTING TECHNIQUES CALLED "HAKKEI."

IT'S THE SOURCE OF THEIR POWER... THIS IS WHAT GIVES THEM LIFE.
BLOOD? THAT?! ... LOOKS LIKE MERCURY!
LOOK. THIS IS AUTOMATON BLOOD...


THEY EXPLODE BECAUSE THEIR VITAL FLUID STARTS BOILING INSTANTANEOUSLY.
WHEN YOU PROJECT A LARGE AMOUNT OF "KI" AGAINST THEM,


YOU WILL NOT FIND ANY SEAM ON THEIR SKIN, NOT EVEN AT THE JOINTS.
EVERY-THING LOOKS PERFECT. THEIR PORES, THEIR HAIR...
THEY KEEP ON RESEARCHING WAYS TO IMPROVE THEIR APPEARANCE.
THEY WANT IT TO BE AS CLOSE AS POSSIBLE TO THAT OF HUMAN BEINGS.

THIS FEELS LIKE HUMAN SKIN!
I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT....

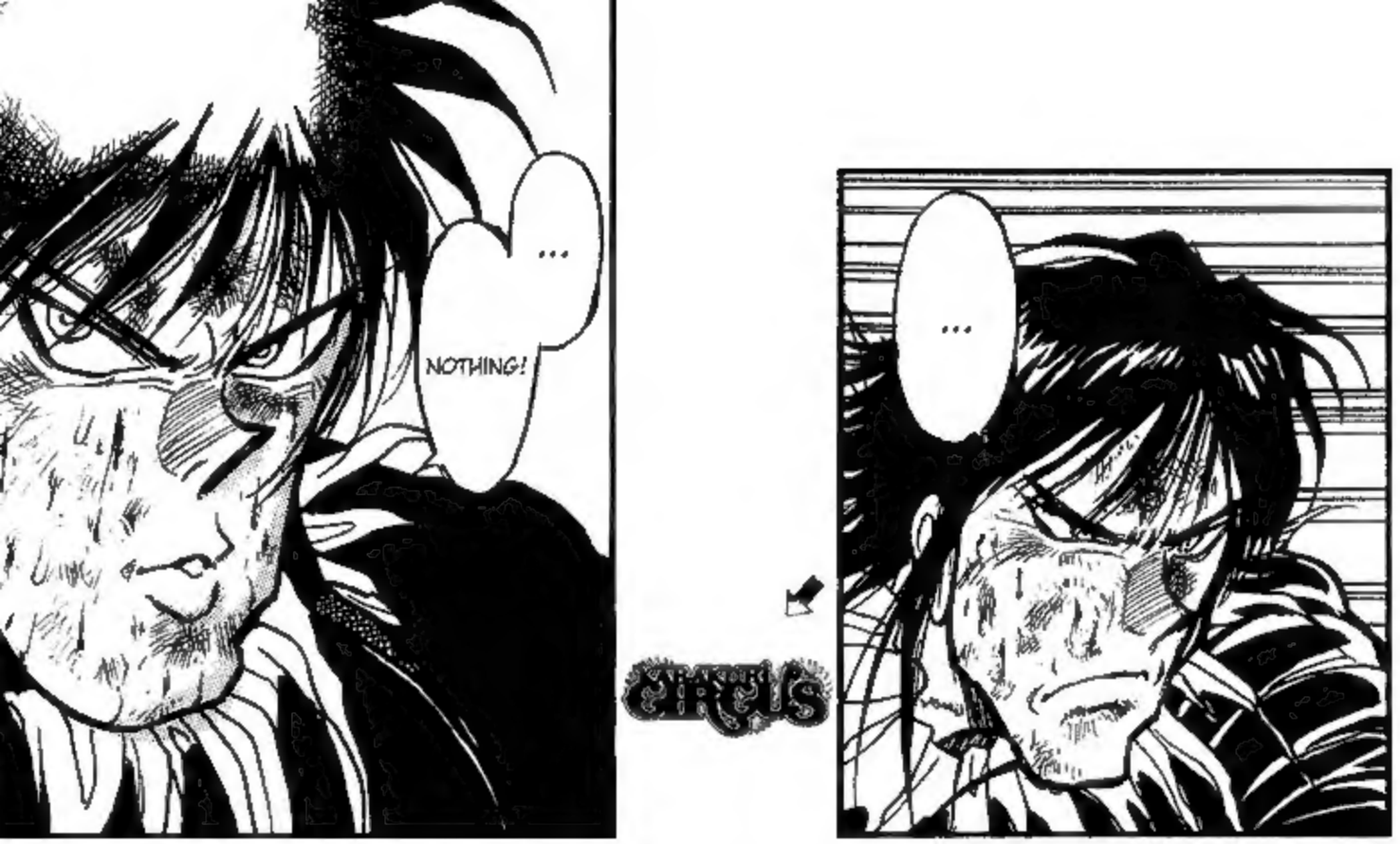
YOU'RE ALREADY ABLE TO FACE AUTOMATONS JUST WITH YOUR HUMAN BODY.
NOW YOU KNOW EXACTLY WHY I NEED YOUR HELP.
...THAT MY HEAD IS GONNA EXPLODE TOO.
I'M HEARING SO MANY INCREDIBLE THINGS...
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
DIDN'T YOU JUST TELL ME THAT I CAN FIGHT AUTOMATONS BY MYSELF?!
THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M ASKING! ... WHY DID YOU GIVE ME THIS CRAZY ARM INSTEAD OF A NORMAL PROSTHESIS?!
...
HM
...
...THEN HERE, AND THAT'S IT!
ZAM
TO PUT IT AWAY, FOLD IT HERE...
AND THAT?
...FOR "CERTAIN" BATTLES.
YES... BUT ONE DAY, THAT WON'T BE ENOUGH ANYMORE. YOUR HUMAN BODY WON'T BE STRONG ENOUGH...

YOU WILL DO IT.
THERE'S NO WAY I'M GONNA KEEP ON FIGHTING!
HEY!
FURTHER-MORE.
UH...
...AND WHY YOU WOKE UP HERE IN FRANCE.
ESPECIALLY IF I PROMISE TO TELL YOU WHY YOU LOST AN ARM...
HA HA HA!
...
SEE? YOU ALREADY WANT TO COME WITH ME!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
...YOU'LL BE ABLE TO RENEW EVEN STRONGER RELATIONSHIPS WITH PEOPLE DEAR TO YOU, BUT OF WHOM YOU HAVE NO MEMORY AT THE MOMENT.
BY FIGHTING...

POLICE
POLICE
SOMEONE CALLED THE POLICE!
!
YOU HAVE NO MONEY, NO PAPERS... IN THIS COUNTRY, YOU ARE JUST AN ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT!
THERE'S ANOTHER GOOD REASON TO COME WITH ME...
WAAAAH! HOW ARE WE GONNA EXPLAIN ALL THIS?!
...
I DON'T HAVE ANY PAPERS, NOT EVEN A PASSPORT!
COME, IT'S YOUR TURN TO HELP, OLYMPIA.
VLOM
YOU DON'T HAVE A CHOICE... BELIEVE ME, NARUMI...

WH... WHAT'S THAT?!?
EH?!
FLAP!
...IT IS NOW TIME TO DECIDE!
NARUMI...
ZAN
KRUM
FF
AHH
SSA

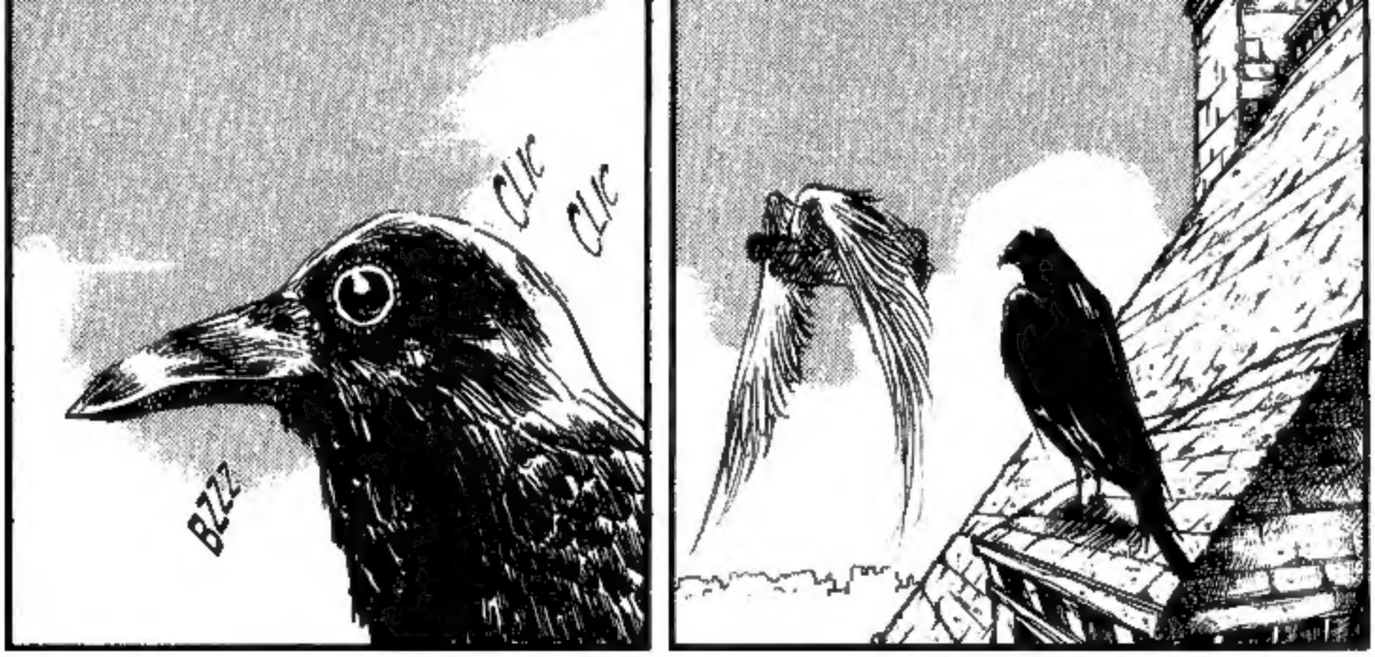
WOOMM
WAAAAAHHH !!!
SHIT SHIT SHIT!
WHY DO I HAVE TO GO THROUGH ALL THIS?!
NARUMI, WHAT VULGAR-ITY!
SHADDUP! I HATE YOUR PRETENTIOUS AND KNOW-IT-ALL ATTITUDE!
AND I HATE THIS FLYING PUPPET!
SO WHAT?

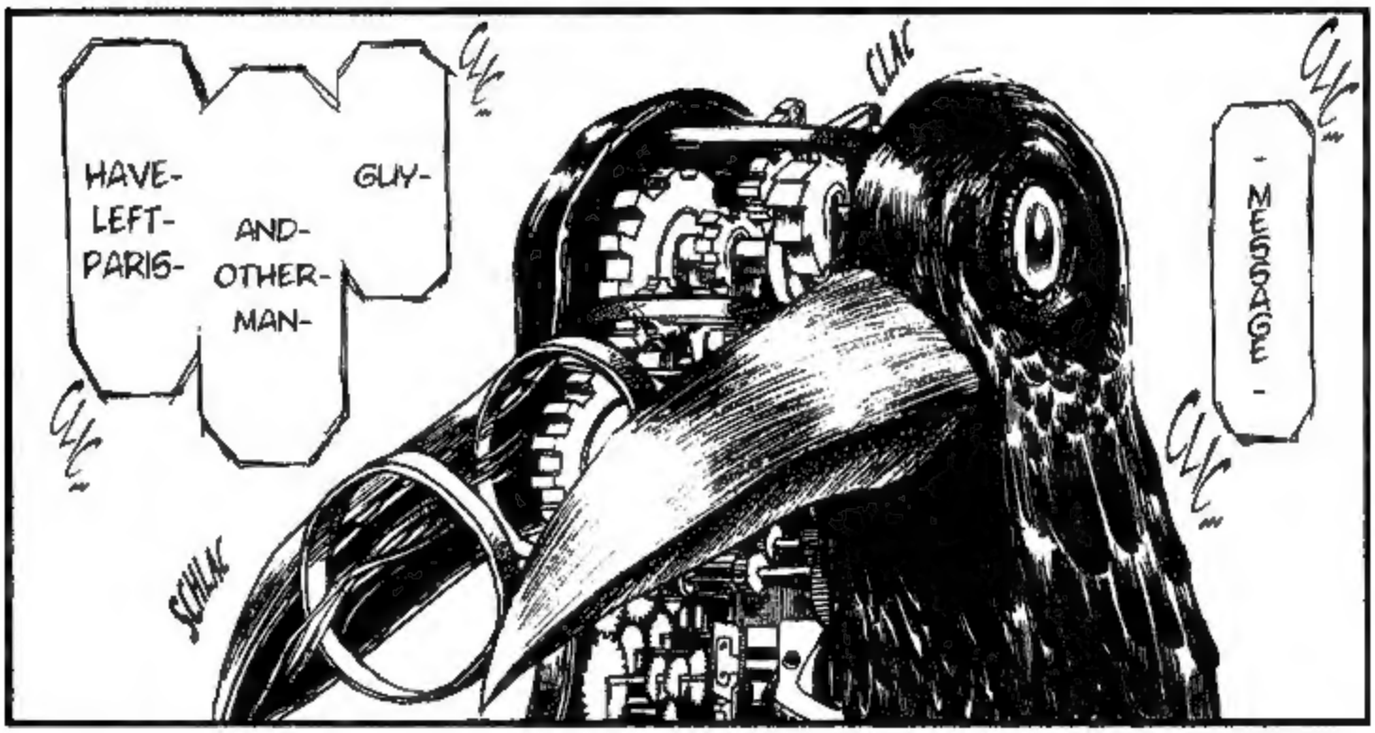


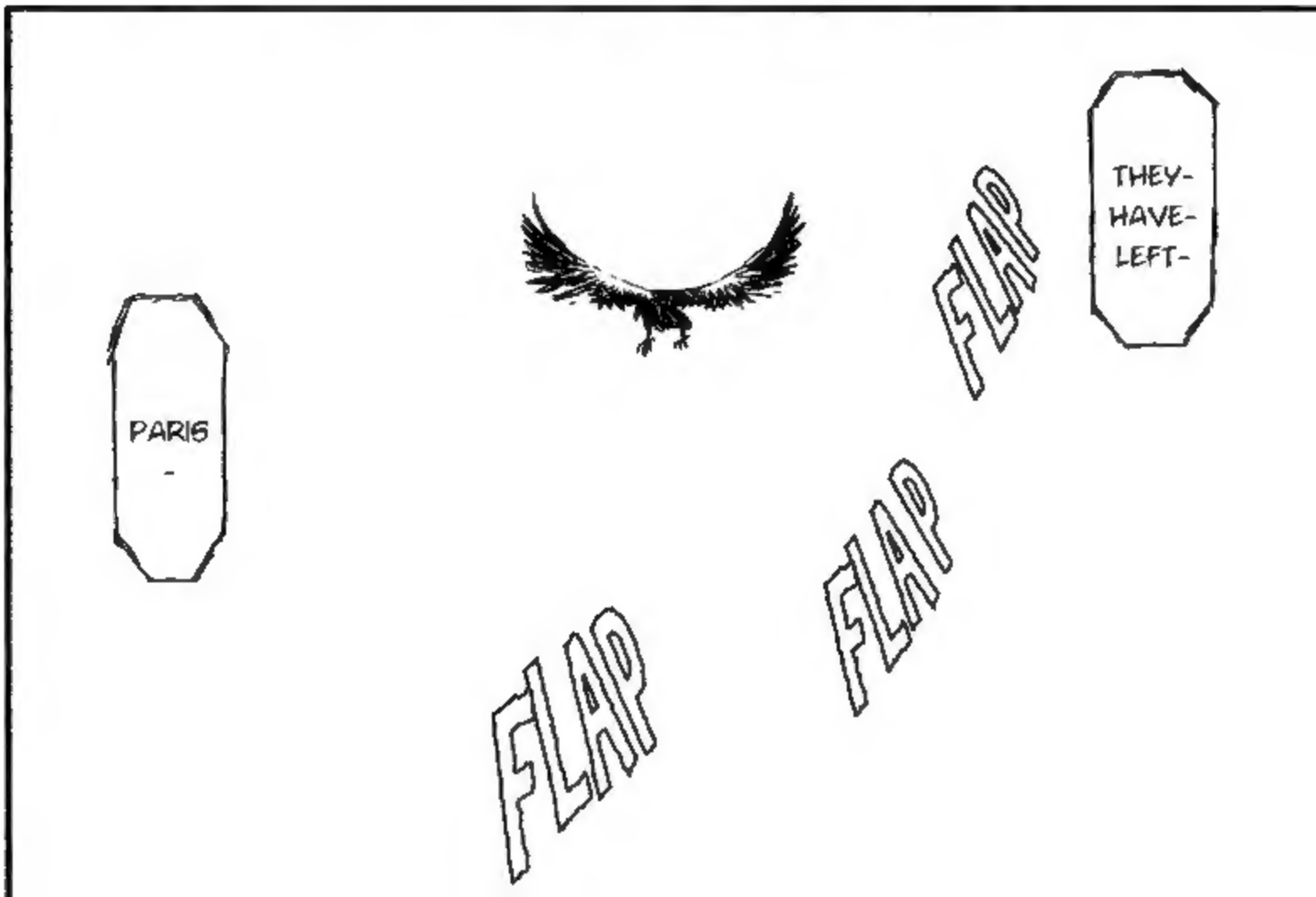
CIRCUS

KARAKURI CIRCUS

KARAKURI CIRCUS


BZZZ
CLIC
CLIC


HAVE-
LEFT-
PARIS-
AND-
OTHER-
MAN-
GUY-
- MESSAGE -
CLIC
CLIC
CLIC
CLIC
SCHLAK


PARIS
-
THEY-
HAVE-
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FLAP
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